

Message Text

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47

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 EUR-25 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 NEA-10 DRC-01 SR-02 ORM-03

OMB-01 /164 W

----- 116653

P R 161440Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

SECSTATE WASHDC 4203

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TS, LY, SREF

SUBJECT: IMPACT OF GOT/LARG MERGER ON TUNISIAN

JEWISH COMMUNITY

REF: (A) GENEVA 181 (NOTAL)

(B) PARIS 1259 (NOTAL)

1. LOCAL JEWISH COMMUNITY HAS REMAINED MORE OR LESS CALM SINCE ANNOUNCEMENT OF UNION, ALTHOUGH THERE HAVE BEEN THREE INCIDENTS OF JEWS REQUESTING VISA INFORMATION IN THE CONSULAR SECTION ON JAN. 14 AND 15 AND STATING AS REASON FOR THEIR REQUEST THAT THEY WERE APPREHENSIVE OVER THE PROCLAMATION OF UNION AND HOPED TO BE ABLE TO LEAVE TUNISIA QUICKLY IF NECESSARY. IN ADDITION, LOCAL GRAND SYNAGOGUE HAS AT VARIOUS TIMES SINCE JAN. 12 AFTERNOON BEEN RINGED WITH POLICE.

2. ESTIMATE OF JEWISH POPULATION GENERALLY ACCURATE, ALTHOUGH IT HAS BEEN DECREASED BY PERHAPS TWO OR THREE HUNDRED SINCE OCTOBER 1973.

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3. IN SPITE OF ABOVE, BELIEVE JEWISH COMMUNITY WILL BE SOMEWHAT REASSURED BY RESULTS OF JOINT PSD-COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING (REPORTED SEPTTEL). PRESS REPORTS INDICATE UNION WILL BE PHASED OVER TIME AND FIRST QUESTION OF REFER-

ENDUM WILL REQUIRE AMENDMENT OF CONSTITUTION WHICH LIKELY WILL TAKE SOME TIME, PERHAPS SEVERAL MONTHS. PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA'S REASSURANCES TO JEWISH COMMUNITY IN OCTOBER AT TIME OF OUTBREAK OF MIDDLE EAST WAR ARE STILL PRESUMABLE VALID EVEN IF THEY HAVE NOT BEEN PUBLICLY REITERATED.

4. EMBASSY WILL BE GLAD TO TRY AND BE OF HELP TO KARLIKOW (REF B). HE SHOULD NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT JAN. 18 IS TUNISIAN HOLIDAY. LOCAL OFFICES AND EMBASSY WILL BE CLOSED. IF TIME IS OF CONCERN TO KARLIKOW, SUGGEST HE CALL EMBASSY (282.566) AND ASK FOR DUTY OFFICER WHO WILL PUT HIM IN TOUCH WITH APPROPRIATE EMBOFF. SHOULD HE ARRIVE BEFORE 17:30 ON 17/1 SUGGEST HE CALL EMBASSY AND CONTACT JOHN WILLETT. SEELYE

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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